United Nations A/C.4/72/L.1

General Assembly

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Seventy-second session
Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

Organization of work

Note by the Chair

1. The agenda items allocated by the General Assembly to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) for consideration are listed in document A/C.4/72/1. Background information on those items, including references to related documentation, is set out in the annotated preliminary list of items to be included in the provisional agenda of the seventy-second session (A/72/100).[1]

2. The General Assembly, in rule 99, paragraph (b), of its rules of procedure, calls upon each Main Committee to adopt a programme of work indicating, if possible, a target date for the conclusion of its work, the approximate dates of consideration of items and the number of meetings to be allocated for the consideration of each item.

3. The General Assembly decided that the seventy-second session should recess on Monday, 11 December 2017, and that, inter alia, the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) should complete its work by Friday, 10 November 2017 (see A/72/250, paras. 21 and 22).

4. To that end, the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) may wish to consider adopting as a provisional guideline the approximate dates set out below for the consideration of the items on its agenda with the understanding that they may be revised periodically, as appropriate. The Committee will also consider certain items on its agenda jointly in order to ensure the full and efficient utilization of the conference facilities allocated to it. As indicated below, the conference services have allocated 28 meetings to the Committee and have urged the Committee to make every effort to complete its work within the time allotted. Should the Committee wish to change the dates on which it considers items, it would still have to work within the dates and times indicated below.

[1] For the final list of agenda items adopted by the General Assembly, see A/72/251.

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Date/time	*Programme*
Week of 25-29 September	
Thursday, 28 September	
10 a.m.	Organization of work
	Approval of programme of work
	Approval of time limits for statements
	Establishment of the Working Group of the Whole on outer space
	Consideration of aide-memoire containing requests to petition on Non-Self-Governing Territories
Week of 2-6 October	
Monday, 2 October	
3 p.m.	Introductory statements and joint general debate on decolonization items:
	Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations (item 58)
	Economic and other activities that affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories (item 59)
	Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations (item 60)
	Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories (item 61)
	Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (item 62)
	Approval of requests to petition on Non-Self-Governing Territories
6 p.m.	Closure of the list of speakers on decolonization items
	Deadline for submission of proposals on decolonization items
Tuesday, 3 October	
3 p.m.	Consideration of decolonization items (*continued*):
	Statements by representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories as well as petitions on Non-Self-Governing Territories approved to be heard by the Committee
Wednesday, 4 October	
3 p.m.	Consideration of decolonization items (*continued*):
	Statements by representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories as well as petitions on Non-Self-Governing Territories approved to be heard by the Committee

Date/time	*Programme*
Thursday, 5 October	
3 p.m.	Consideration of decolonization items (*continued*):
	Statements by representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories as well as petitions on Non-Self-Governing Territories approved to be heard by the Committee
Friday, 6 October	
3 p.m.	Consideration of decolonization items (*continued*):
	Statements by representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories as well as petitions on Non-Self-Governing Territories approved to be heard by the Committee
Week of 9-13 October	
Monday, 9 October	
10 a.m.	Consideration of decolonization items (*continued*):
	Joint general debate on decolonization items (*continued*)
Tuesday, 10 October	
10 a.m.	Consideration of decolonization items (*continued*):
	Joint general debate on decolonization items (*concluded*)
	Action on proposals submitted under decolonization items
Wednesday, 11 October	
10 a.m.	Introductory statement and general debate on:
	International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space (item 52)
	Working Group of the Whole on international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space
Thursday, 12 October	
10 a.m.	**International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space (item 52)**
	Joint panel discussion of the First and Fourth Committees on possible challenges to space security and sustainability
Friday, 13 October	
10 a.m.	**International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space (item 52)**
	General debate (*continued*)
	Working Group of the Whole on international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space (*continued*)

Date/time	*Programme*
Week of 16-20 October	
Tuesday, 17 October	
3 p.m.	**International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space (item 52)**
	General debate (*concluded*)
	Working Group of the Whole on international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space (*concluded*)
	Action on proposals
Wednesday, 18 October	
3 p.m.	Introductory statement, interactive dialogue and general debate on:
	Questions relating to information (item 57)
Thursday, 19 October	
10 a.m.	**Questions relating to information (item 57)**
	General debate (*continued*)
1 p.m.	Closure of the list of speakers on item 57
3 p.m.	**Questions relating to information (item 57)**
	General debate (*concluded*)
	Action on proposals
Week of 23-27 October	
Wednesday, 25 October	
10 a.m.	Introductory statement, interactive dialogue and general debate on:
	Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (item 55)
1 p.m.	Closure of the list of speakers on item 55
Thursday, 26 October	
10 a.m.	**Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (item 55)**
	General debate (*continued*)
Friday, 27 October	
10 a.m.	**Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (item 55)**
	General debate (*continued*)

Date/time	*Programme*
Week of 30 October-3 November	
Monday, 30 October	
3 p.m.	**Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (item 55)**
	General debate (*concluded*)
Tuesday, 31 October	
3 p.m.	Introductory statements, interactive dialogue, general debate and action on proposal on:
	Comprehensive review of special political missions (item 56)
Wednesday, 1 November	
3 p.m.	Introductory statements, interactive dialogue, general debate and action on proposal on:
	Assistance in mine action (item 50)
Thursday, 2 November	
3 p.m.	Introductory statements, general debate and action on proposal on:
	Effects of atomic radiation (item 51)
Friday, 3 November	
3 p.m.	Introductory statement, question-and-answer period and general debate on:
	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (item 53)
6 p.m.	Deadline for submission of proposals on items 53 and 54
	Deadline for submission of proposals on all outstanding items
Week of 6-10 November	
Monday, 6 November	
10 a.m.	**United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (item 53)**
	General debate (*concluded*)
Tuesday, 7 November	
10 a.m.	Introductory statement, question-and-answer period and general debate on:
	Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories (item 54)

Date/time	*Programme*
Wednesday, 8 November	
10 a.m.	**Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories (item 54)**
	General debate (*continued*)
Thursday, 9 November	
10 a.m.	**Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories (item 54)**
	General debate (*concluded*)
Friday, 10 November	
10 a.m.	**United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (item 53)**
	Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories (item 54)
	Introduction of and action on proposals
	Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly (item 122)
	Proposed programme of work and timetable for the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) for the seventy-third session of the General Assembly and consideration of working methods
	Programme planning (item 137)
	Action on proposals on all outstanding agenda items
	Conclusion of the work of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) for the main part of the session

5. In the preparation of the timetable above, the Chair was guided by the following considerations:

(a) In accordance with established procedures and practices and bearing in mind the availability of documentation, the Committee may wish to hold one general debate covering agenda items 58 to 62 and individual debates on agenda items 50 to 57, 122 and 137, on the understanding that draft resolutions and/or decisions will be considered separately;

(b) Representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories and petitioners will be heard as early as possible during the Committee's consideration of the related items, and the Chair suggests that the Committee devote its meetings from Tuesday to Friday, 3 to 6 October, to the hearing of petitioners;

(c) Item 122, Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly, is allocated to all the Main Committees for the sole purpose of considering and taking action on their respective tentative programme of work;

(d) Item 137, Programme planning, is allocated to all the Main Committees and the plenary of the General Assembly to enhance the discussion of evaluation, planning, budgeting and monitoring reports. If the Assembly allocates any report submitted under this item to the Fourth Committee, the Committee shall revert to this item.

6. Subject to the provisional programme of work above being acceptable to the Committee and in order to facilitate its work, the Chair wishes to suggest that the list of speakers in the general debate covering the following agenda items be closed as follows:

Items 58 to 62: Monday, 2 October, at 6 p.m.

Item 57: Thursday, 19 October, at 1 p.m.

Item 55: Wednesday, 25 October, at 1 p.m.

The Committee will take decisions on the closure of the list of speakers relating to the general debates on the remaining items at the appropriate time.

7. The Chair also wishes to draw the attention of members of the Committee to the decisions of the General Assembly on the organization of its work contained in document A/72/250, sections II.B to III.

8. Members are also requested to bear in mind the decision of the General Assembly that morning and afternoon meetings should start promptly at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., respectively, both for plenary meetings and for meetings of the Main Committees during the seventy-second session. The attention of the members is also drawn to the decision of the Assembly to waive, at its seventy-second session, the quorum required, under rule 108 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, for the Chair to declare a meeting open and permit the debate to proceed (see A/72/250, para. 27).

9. In view of the limited number of meetings available to the Committee, it is suggested that the time limit for statements be set at 10 minutes, with the exception of statements made by the spokespersons of groups of delegations, which would be extended to 15 minutes. In this connection, the Chair will set the time limit for the petitioners as it is deemed necessary.

10. The list of documents submitted under the various agenda items allocated to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) is contained in document A/C.4/72/INF/1, which will be updated as necessary.